

# CHURCHES & SCHOOLS

.....



Old Todd's Mill Catholic Church, St. Mary Magdalen, 1918.



Old Paradise Missionary Baptist Church



Building the New Paradise Baptist Church



"Old Mound Church" Presbyterian Denomination located northwest of Cutler on the big hill. *Submitted by Vivian E. Lipe*

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DU QUOIN DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

The First Christian Church of Du Quoin is almost as old as the city itself, having been founded 141 year ago. It's beginning was largely associated with the lives of three widowed sisters, "Grandma" Williams, Mrs. McElvain and Mrs. Wells.

Mrs. Williams and her sons, Frederick, Daniel, Abner and William and her daughter, Mrs. Lysias Heape, were all actively interested in the organization of the church in 1857 as were William Schwartz, Isaac and Robert J. Wheatley.

Until the church was built, meetings were held in the homes of charter members. Elder Lysias Heape took the contract to build the first church in the new town in 1857. At that time the town consisted of two or three dozen houses scattered over the prairie. The new church cost \$1,200 including the furnishings.

## Keyes Donated Lot

Chester A. Keyes and his wife, Harriet E. donated the lot and \$100 toward the building. The lot was located just north of what is now Keyes City Park, on Spring Street. There was no street and the addition was not named, although the deed to the lot was recorded 14 October 1857 and gave the location as Lot 2 in block 17.

Trustees to whom the deed was made were: Abner J. Williams, William Stacey and Isaac Wheatley.

In March of 1861 a protracted meeting was held by Elder O. A. Burgess. After preaching about 10 days, he wanted to quit, the only addition being the late P. N. Pope. But a few mornings later, six more young men (B. F. Pope, Artemis and Leander Brown, W. G. Heape, H.H. Taylor and Edwin and R. A. Wheatley) made a profession of their faith in Christ and went to Reese's Creek where the ice was cut and they were baptized. Then adjourning to a nearby grove, where snow covered the ground, dry garments were donned. None suffered any ill effects. About 50 members were gained before the meeting closed.

The building was used for public gatherings, and freely, for lectures, debates and academic classes. For 34 years the church dedicated first to God and next to our country served its purpose.

At the beginning of the Civil War this building was the only one available for gatherings, consequently it was used for recruiting volunteers.

R. A. Wheatley said "I presume that every man who enlisted in the Civil War from our town did so in response to impassioned appeals from its (the church's) rostrum that the country be saved."

## Original Bell

The church bell, the first to be hung in Du Quoin, called the recruits together. So much did that bell mean to the congregation that it was moved from the original building and rehung in the new church. The inscription cast into it reads: "Number 1815 Naylor Vickers and Co., 1860, Sheffield, England. Ripe's patent Cast Steel.

Pastors came and went, bright days and dark days made up the church history. Sometimes there would be no preaching service but there would be the Sunday School, followed by prayer, songs and scripture reading and communion ser-



Older Picture of First Christian Church

vice. Three ministers who served as early pastors were W. H. Bowles, Dr. A. J. Fishback, and J. J. Harriss. Mrs. Harry Dyer (Jennie BIDWELL) was church organist for a time in this early church.

Under the leadership of Reverend J. J. Harriss, a forward step was taken in the building of a new church on East Main Street. The lot on which the new church was to be built was bought from Lillie Browning and husband on 18 March 1891. The cost was \$1,000. Trustees of the church at this time were P. N. Pope, P. D. Mifflin and William Maclin. F E. Pope was superintendent of the Sunday school and his father, B. F. Pope and R. A. Wheatley were elders.

The cost of the building was \$22,000.

Ministers who served the church during the 34 years this building was its home, in succession, were J. J. Harriss, J. C. Stark, E. H. Lorton, William Kern, R. H. Robertson, G. W. Wise, C. E. Smith, Adam J. Adcock, Earl H. Fife and R. A. Harmon.

Early in his ministry to the Du Quoin Church, Reverend Harmon realized the need for more room both for the church and church school. Under his guidance and leadership the movement for a new building was begun and soon a building fund was started. A special day was set and on that day a great deal of money was given and many pledges were made.

On 3 March 1921, the church bought from Mrs. Katherine Maclin her old home on the corner of Park and Washington Streets, with the purpose of perhaps building the new church there. However, the congregation voted to keep the old location on Main Street. The newly acquired lot was sold to the First Baptist Church.

When there was sufficient money in the building fund for the construction to be started, the church and Sunday school services were held in the high school. This was the meeting place until the new church was completed.

## Change Name

R. A. Wheatley, chairman of the official board, called a meeting of the congregation to vote on changing the name of the church. It was voted to change the name to "The First Christian Church."

The work on the new building was begun 2 March 1925 and nine months later, 6 December, the church was dedicated. This was a day of rejoicing for the pastor and congregation. There was a large indebtedness, as the cost was \$125,000.

The Loyal Workers Class taught by Mrs. Joe Collins, gave the pulpit furniture on the day of dedication. Prof. J. G. Stull was superintendent of the Sunday School at this time.

Less than two years after the dedication, Reverend Harmon accepted a call to another church. The ministers who succeeded him in order of their service were: F. E. Day, Curtis M. Wright, Paul M. Bolman, O. E. Grimes, Otis McQuary, John F. Scantland, Jasper Timbs, Interim John Foster, Frank Wilfinger, Interim Fey Willey, Marvin Rannabarger, Interim Harry Chapin, Bob Johns, Interim Monroe, Schuster, Wallace Watson, Youth, Rick Grace, Interim K. Everett Mumson, Robert Dailey, Youth, Leda Dailey, Interim, Chester Zimmer and Elden Earnest.

Reverend McQuary was pastor when Victory Sunday was celebrated 28 December 1945 just 20 years after the church was dedicated.

Dr. E. C. Harris touched a lighted candle to the First Christian Church's bond mortgage note, erasing the last trace of the church's twenty years indebtedness. The last payment on the organ was made September 1934. The last bond was called in for payment 29 November 1945.

The Sunday school had a present enrollment of 620 and the church a membership of more than 700 and is one of the front line churches in benevolent giving. Sunday 17 May 1953, Miss Dorothy Martin was officially installed as a link missionary of the Du Quoin Church. She served in the Philippines.

Two organizations have served faithfully and well throughout the years. The Women's Council and Women's Missionary Society's have combined and since 1949 have a new name Christian Women's Fellowship.

The Church still stands next to the Post Office on East Main Street. Recent additions and innovations include two parking lots east of the Church and an elevator in the northeast corner of the building close to a parking lot. The church celebrated its 140th anniversary in 1997. The celebration included the dedication of the beautiful carillons purchased in memory of the Jakel sisters (Flossie McRoberts, Norma and Ethel Jakel). The carillons play daily at set times and during the Annual Christmas Stroll Celebration, another contribution for the Christmas season is the Live Nativity presented by members.

If you climb above the ceiling and could see the massive trusses that span this 50 foot wide sanctuary and then realize this congregation was large enough in numbers, finances, and vision at the turn of the century to build such a structure, you would begin to have a feel for the "Cloud of Witness" that have gone before. Our forefathers looked beyond themselves to plan and build for other, beyond their wildest dreams. We have had the privilege of enjoying their vision.

Information taken from an article by the late Connie Allen and others from the Christian Visitor. *Submitted by Irene Dixon*



Current Day First Christian Church

## DENMARK BAPTIST CHURCH



Denmark Baptist Church was founded in 1848 and present building erected in 1942. Photo Courtesy of Verna Mae Mohr

1998 marks the 150 year anniversary of Denmark Baptist Church, located in the community of Denmark, Illinois. At one time Denmark had the only post office between Du Quoin and Chester. Denmark was formerly called John's Town, then Jack Town, until Chris Wittmac settled there from the country of Denmark. Mr. Wittmac didn't like the name Jack Town and changed it to Denmark in honor of his home land.

Denmark Baptist Church, first called the Pipestone Baptist Church, was organized in 1848 in the home of E. T. Reese.

The first preachers were circuit riders, traveling from town to town on horseback covering a specific territory. Each Sunday they preached in a different community until they made their way back to where they started from. Then they began the circuit all over again. It could be weeks before your pastor returned to town.

The Baptist's first building was purchased from the Presbyterians. It was located on the lot to the east of the present building. The old building was replaced in 1902 by a wood frame structure on the present site. This lot was donated by A. J. Axum. In June of 1942 lightening struck the bell tower of the church setting it on fire. The building was completely destroyed. Due to World War II, special permission was granted to obtain necessary materials to rebuild and the current structure was erected. The building was dedicated on 2 May 1943. Since that time the structure has been remodeled and an addition was added. Worship services continue to be held in the same building today.

Many families have started their Christian faith at the Denmark Baptist Church, which has carried them through their lifetime wherever they were called to serve. Randy Johnson is the present pastor, leading the members to serve the church family, the communities around us and in mission projects that the church sponsors. *Submitted by Verna Mae Mohr*



Denmark First Baptist Church. Photo Courtesy of Verna Mae Mohr

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DU QUOIN

Du Quoin's First Baptist Church building, located at the corner of Washington and Park Streets, has stood as both a physical and spiritual landmark since its dedication on 2 May 1926.

The history of this church began on 30 May 1857, when a group of fifteen met for the specific purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. This meeting was held at 136 North Washington Street, the home of Christopher Winters, a great-grandfather of the late F. Mark Miller. Preaching the first Sunday morning sermon was Brother S.H. Bundy, Benton, Illinois, followed that evening by Brother Sampson.

The church was received into fellowship of the Nine Mile Baptist Association on 15 October 1857, with 21 members. The Church voted to affiliate with the Southern Baptist Convention on 9 January 1907. The Illinois Baptist State Association was organized in Pinckneyville on 31 January 1907, and affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention in May 1910.

For a period of time, the church met in McClure's Hall, where the public school was also held. When the Presbyterian Church was built, the Baptist congregation furnished the pews and shared the building on alternating Sundays. Still without a home of its own, the church worshipped at the building of the First Christian Church.

Seven years after its organization, the First Baptist Church building was erected on North Mulberry Street in 1864. One peculiar feature of the building was the choir loft was located in the back of the auditorium and when the congregation was singing, they turned to face the choir. The brick building was dedicated on 26 March 1865, and through the years it was enlarged and remodeled three times. Still the building could not contain its growing membership, and the men's Bible class met at the Grand Theater and juniors gathered at the Lyric Hall. Plans were soon underway for a new, larger building.

The present Baptist Church, built in 1926, stands on the exact spot where charter members, Moses Winters and his family lived. The cost of the new building was \$187,000. The church building was remodeled in 1969, and the auditorium was redecorated in 1997. During the week of the dedication services, an organ recital was given on the fine, three manual Kilgen organ. Performing was Fountain P. Leigh, son of building committee member, Dr. J.T. Leigh.

The church has been served by 32 pastors: Those ministering for long periods of time were Reverend Marion Teague, 16 years; Dr. I.E. Lee 14 years; Reverend W.T. (Jack) Branon, 11 years; Reverend Bill C. Clark, 14 years. Reverend Robert (Bob) Dickerson is the present pastor. Fifteen men from First Baptist Church have been ordained to the Gospel ministry.

For 43 years, Miss Jacqueline Beck served as organist, secretary, office administrator and educational assistant. Upon her retirement on 14 February 1982, she was honored as "Sweetheart of First Baptist Church."

The purpose of First Baptist Church is manifold: to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, educate people in the ways of the Lord, engage in corporate worship and praise, and evangelize the world, making disciples and baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Many ministries are used to obtain these goals.

Since its organization, the church has carried on a planned program of Bible teaching through the Sunday School with classes for all age groups. Baptist Young People's Alliance for training in church membership was organized in the early 1880's by Reverend Marion Teague. Other names were Baptist Young People's Union (B.Y.P.U.), Training Union and Church Training.



First Baptist Church, Du Quoin, Perry County, Illinois (May 1998). Photo courtesy of George Ranta.

The Woman's Missionary Union (W.M.U.) was organized in 1884. This organization has supported the mission program of the Southern Baptist Convention, making others aware of home, state, and foreign missions. The W.M.U. sponsors organizations for the youth: Acteens, G.A.'s and Mission Friends. The Brotherhood, a men's organization, began in 1941. They promote the place of men in the entire church program and sponsor the Royal Ambassador program for boys.

Music has always played an important part in church worship. There are vocal choirs, handbell, choirs, and a brass ensemble. Bill Smith began the "Hanging of the Green," which Interim Music Director John Montgomery continues.

An important activity of First Baptist Church is Vacation Bible School conducted each summer. Revivals are often scheduled.

Twenty deacons assist the pastor with a family ministry plan, while five trustees have the responsibility of the church property.

Senior Adult XYZ (Extra Years of Zest) have enjoyed varied activities and outings in the past 35 years. Church members appreciate the services of the Bereavement Ministry.

Prayer services are held each Wednesday evening, and in 1983, family night dinners were added to the Wednesday schedule. A nursery with paid staff and volunteers is provided for all church services.

First Baptist Church's radio ministry began in 1947 when the morning worship service was broadcast over WJPF in Herrin. In 1953, a change was made to the new radio station WDQN in Du Quoin. Currently both the morning and evening services are broadcast.

The 140th Anniversary of First Baptist Church was celebrated on 25 May 1997 with day long activities. Records show that church anniversaries have been celebrated by planting a tree. South of the original church, an evergreen was planted to mark the 25th anniversary, but it has since been removed. A maple, oak, and Colorado blue spruce have been planted for 75, 100 and 125 year anniversaries. To mark the 140th anniversary, a flowering crabapple was planted. "These shall stand as a testimony to the power of God to give life, both physical and spiritual."

The First Baptist Church shall continue to look toward the future, believing its achievements will be limited only by its vision, faith, and dedication to involvement, trusting always in the leadership of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Submitted by First Baptist Church Historical Committee.

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Parish had its beginning on 8 December 1904, when parishioners approached Father Joseph Ceranski of Du Bois to help them build a Church. The Church was built in the northeast part of Tamaroa and the first Mass was offered on 25 December 1905. The first baptism was on 25 January 1906 of Martha Bednarkiewicz Zielinski. The first marriage was performed by Father Stanley Berent on 13 June 1906 for Theodore Gross of Scheller and Josie Poninski of Rice, Illinois.

Parish records include the names of Andruszkiewicz, Bieszek, Barnowski, Czerwinski, Dalka, Dreczka, Dziubek, Kwiatkowski, Kownacki, Maschewski, and many others that suggest the modern spelling has been changed.

The Parish Cemetery is located a mile west of the new church. An acre of ground was donated by the Victor Rekosz family in 1905. The Parish maintains an account which is funded by an annual shooting match and raffle. Ed Rulevish and his family are the present caretakers, mowing the grass and keeping the grounds neatly trimmed. Gary Reidelberger sells plots, measures and marks them when there is a need.

During a thunderstorm on 15 August 1958, a bolt of lightning struck the church which was soon destroyed by fire. Mass was held in the Parish Hall until the new church was built.

Ground breaking for the new Church was held after Mass on a rainy morning on 20 April 1959 by Bishop Albert Zuroweste, assisted by Father Joseph Wiczorek, the Pastor. The new Church was dedicated on 24 August 1960 by Bishop Albert Zuroweste.

The Altar Society was organized in 1926. The members share in the blessing of taking care of the necessities of the Altar, Church, Funeral Dinners, Parish and Community Charities. All of this is done for the spiritual welfare of members and the material benefits of the Parish.

The following Pastors have played an important role in the Parish with spiritual and material help: Reverend Joseph Ceranski, 1904-1906; Reverend Remigius Berent, 1906-1908; Reverend Stanley Berent 1908-1910; Reverend Konkiel, 1901-1914; Reverend Leonard Panicki, 1914-1929; Reverend Michael Klimas, 1929-1939; Reverend John Putas, 1939-1942; Reverend Stanley Ksycki, 1942-1955; Reverend Joseph Wiczorek, 1955-1960; Reverend Bernard Moorman, 1960-1961; Reverend John Gasiunas 1961-1969; Reverend Peter Hsu, 1969-1970; Reverend Hugh Kilfoil, 1970-1971; Reverend Peter Hsu, 1971; Reverend Vincent Tikuisis, 1971-1973; Reverend Fred Renschen, 1973-1974; Reverend Joseph Hansmann, 1974-1981; Reverend Vito Lopardo, 1981-1984; Reverend Hyacinth Mazuchowski, 1984-1987; Monsignor Paulin Dobkowski, 1987-1992; Reverend Hyacinth Mazuchowski, 1992-1994; and Reverend Daniel Jurek to the present.

Two young men were ordained to the priesthood from the Parish. They were: Raymond Kownacki on 4 June 1960 and Gary Sebesak on 4 June 1994. At present, we have a young man, Trevor Murry studying in Rome.



Old Immaculate Conception Church



New Immaculate Conception Church

The first baby baptized in the new church was William Rojek. The first funeral held there was for Anna Rojek. The first marriage was for Julia Rojek and Charles Kitowski. Early Trustees were Ted Rekosz, Lewis Matlavish, Ed Pestka, Ben Rusiewski and Walter Setmeyer.

The religious training of the young people was vital. For many years, the Franciscan Sisters held summer school. Saturday classes were held along with summer school. Today, the Parish School of Religion is taught by five dedicated teachers. The High School students are instructed by the Pastor.

The Parish Council is vital to the Parish. It consists of six elected members and two Trustees. They assist the Pastor in the mission of Jesus Christ and the people of God, the Church.

We stress heavily the sacramental life of the Church. Family life must be very strong to help the young people grow in soul and body. We worship together. We are joyful together and we are compassionate in time of sorrow. Young and old together, we walk with God in Faith, Hope and Love.

# PINCKNEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mill and South Streets

"A friendly church in the heart of Perry County."

The Methodist Church is closely related to the birth and the growth of the City of Pinckneyville and Perry County since the time it was first established. The earliest sermon preached in Pinckneyville was by Reverend J. H. Dickens who had been assigned in the fall of 1837 to form a Nashville circuit which included three small towns that had been separated from the Mt. Vernon circuit. Reverend Dickens recalls, "Sometime in the winter of 1837 and 1838 I visited and preached my first sermon in Pinckneyville, put up at Father Jones (Humphrey B. Jones, a prominent landowner whose residence was near the present church)" He remained for two years - 1837-1838-laboring to build and establish Methodism. He traveled on horseback through heat and cold, over a thinly settled country, organizing small societies and forming what is known for many years as the Pinckneyville Circuit.

The first Methodist Society in Pinckneyville was composed of Dr. Humphrey B. Jones and Harriet Jones, his wife, Isaac Carmack and Sally Carmack, his wife, Benjamin Hammack and Sarah Hammack, his wife, Aaron Holman and Patsey Holman, his wife, and Calvin Edwards and Fannie Edwards, his wife.

The first meetings of the Society was held in the home of Dr. J. B. Jones and afterwards for a time, in the court house. From the court house, the services were removed to the school house, and then to a public meeting house known as the Temperance Hall, which they used as a place of worship for a number of years, as did other denominations.

The Temperance Hall was a building 36 feet long and 26 feet wide and two stories high. It was on the west side of south Main Street about 150 feet south of the intersection of Mulberry and Main Streets. It was erected about 1850 for the use of Orthodox Christians in the lower story foyer. In the late eighteen nineties the building ceased to be used for meetings of any kind and between 1900 and 1905 the roof caved in and the building was razed.

The first Methodist church was built in 1857 under the ministry of Reverend G. B. Cullom. It was a plain building 30 x 40 feet which was large enough for the congregation and the community in those early days. It served as a place of worship for about 25 years when it became inadequate for the size of the congregation. It was located on the east side of North Main Street and was east of the present residence of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Epplin. The property was sold on 14 September 1883.

In 1881, under Reverend W. H. Tyner, work began on the construction of a new church with the corner stone laid 17 May 1881 with completion on 21 May 1882 when it was dedicated. The church was of brick construction 21 x 52 feet located on the northeast corner of Mill and South Streets, and facing south on South Street. "It is a model of neatness and beauty and stands as a monument of the liberality of Pinckneyville Methodists, built as it was during the financial pressure of 1881 and 1882," according to W. H. Tyner, Compiler. The building was accepted by the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1907, under the pastorate of Reverend John H. Davis, one of the greatest revivals in the history of the church was held, at which time there were a great many conversions and admissions to the church. The old church became totally inadequate and it became necessary to build a new church. The cornerstone of the new church was laid on 17 October 1907.

There was a German Methodist Episcopal Church, which was located on the southeast corner of Randolph and Douglas Streets, which was organized about 1869 and disbanded about 1892 when they merged with the English churches.

The "Old Academy" was started sometime after 1870 by Reverend Holding, pastor of the Methodist Church and continued until the building burned down prior to 1877.

The present church was started under the ministry of Reverend Leroy Pittman on 26 September 1965 and was completed in the Spring of 1970. The dedication services began at the 10 am service on 30 January 1977 with Reverend James Simms as the Resident Minister.

The modernistic brick church with its commodious areas for meetings and conferences has been used for many ecumenical services and conferences especially with the First Pinckneyville Presbyterian Church and the St. Paul United Church of Christ (E & R). It sponsors a non-denominational vacation bible school which attracts 100's of children from the area. There are many other year - round youth-related activities in the church's youth ministry. The music ministry has a large senior choir and a bell choir. Reverend Robert R. Smith, D. Min., is now the Resident Minister.



Pinckneyville United Methodist Church

## ST. BRUNO CATHOLIC CHURCH, PINCKNEYVILLE



St. Bruno's Catholic Church, North Gordon Street, Pinckneyville

St. Bruno's Catholic Church has continued to spread the good Word of the Lord through the years. The Church celebrated its 125th year as a Parish in 1996-97. The celebration began on 26 October 1996, on the Feast of St. Bruno and concluded with a Mass of Thanksgiving con-celebrated by the Most Reverend Wilton Gregory, Bishop of Belleville and Reverend John L. Venegoni, Pastor of St. Bruno's Church on 5 October 1997. The Mass of Thanksgiving included music by St. Bruno's choir, under the direction of Ms. Phyllis Epplin and Mrs. Jane Fontana, organist.

The Choir also held a concert on Sunday afternoon 28 September 1997, as part of the 125th Anniversary celebration. The concert featured special selections chosen to represent each season of the liturgical year.



125th Anniversary Mass 1 June 1997. (l. to r.) Father Brian Barker, Father John Venegoni, Father James McCormick and Monsignor Meinrad Dunn.

The Parish enjoyed pulpit exchange with former pastors and native sons who are Priests. These visits allowed for many fond memories to be recalled by the present congregation. Through the year impressive '125th Anniversary' banners, made by Mrs. Kim Kellerman, were displayed behind the altar in the Sanctuary. Tee-shirts with the design of the Church were sold to commemorate the event and as mementos of this special year.

On Sunday afternoon 1 June 1997, the 125th Anniversary Mass was held. All former living Priests, serving Our Lord from St. Bruno's Parish, participated in this special Mass. The music was provided by 'The Bad Habits,' a group of three Sisters who sing and play guitars. Two of the Sisters were at one time teachers at St. Bruno's School. Following the Mass, a Parish pot-luck was enjoyed by all in the Knights of Columbus Hall. A time of visiting and reminiscing was followed by entertainment featuring the group "The Sister Act 33 1/3" from St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Murphysboro, Illinois.

St. Bruno's School has continued through the years with a quality education program. It has added a pre-school and Kindergarten to the curriculum during the last ten years. The school has developed a computer lab on the main floor and has a computer in each class room. The 1997-98 school year brings us only one Sister from the 'Adorers of the blood of Christ' and eight lay teachers with Ms. Sandy Bigham Bray as Principal. Parish School of Religion classes have been a vital part of St. Bruno's effort to ensure Catholic Religious education for all children in the Parish.

A more complete history of St. Bruno Catholic Church can be found in *The History of Perry County 1827 to 1988*, page 399, published by the Perry County Historical Society. Additional information about the beginning of Catholic work in this area can be found in *The History of Randolph, Monroe, and Perry Counties, Illinois*, on page 281, published in 1883 by J. L. McDonough and Company.

In the past ten years St. Bruno's has been pastored by Reverend Eugene Wojcik (1987-1993), Reverend James Nall (1993-1996), and Reverend John Venegoni (1996-Present). The Diocese is lead by The Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, S.L.D., Bishop of Belleville. Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mann



The Bad Habits perform 1 June 1998. (l. to r.) Sister Janet, Sister Jan and Sister Jane

## ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



St. Paul United Church of Christ, Pinckneyville. Photo courtesy of William E. Timpner

St. Paul United Church of Christ on Jackson Street in Pinckneyville, Illinois has a history and roster of ministers dating from 1865 to 1988 published in Volume I of the Perry County History Book.

Since that printing the beloved Reverend Keith C. Klosterman passed away on 17 September 1995 at the age of 63. He and his wife, Laverne, and their children, Connie, Patricia, and Mike came to Pinckneyville in 1968. After Reverend Klosterman's death an interim minister, Reverend Fran



Reverend Mark and Leanne Binder, Mark, Jr. and Faith. A recent arrival Hope was born in 1998.

Grantz of St. Louis, Missouri pastored St. Paul's until February 1997. At that time Reverend Mark Binder, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, accepted the pastorate and moved his wife, Leanne, and their children, Mark, Jr. and Faith to Pinckneyville. Reverend Mark Binder's educational biography includes a BA in Religion and General Science, and an MA in Religion and Health Sciences from the University of Iowa and a Master of Divinity from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary received in 1985. Mrs. Leanne Binder has a teaching degree specializing in day care for young children. The Binders continue to support and serve St. Paul United Church of Christ.



Reverend Keith C. Klosterman  
(1932-1995)

This page is offered in tribute to St. Paul United Church of Christ by the William B. and Laura A. Timpner memorial fund.

## THE SUNFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church in Sunfield was organized in 1871 and was located where the Sunfield Baptist Church now stands west of U.S. Route 51. This was a one room building erected on land given to the Church by Marion Teague. The Methodist minister from Du Quoin came every Sunday to hold services. There came a time when this was not possible so services were discontinued for awhile.

In the early 1900's the building was moved to ground given to the Church east of Route 51 and across the Illinois Central Railroad. In the spring of 1907 the property was purchased on which the church now stands. The ground was bought from Thomas Fleming and the Trustees signing the deed were: Joseph Bailey, James Saunders, and Thomas Yates. The Church was dedicated on 1 September 1907 by Reverend Nathaniel Crow, Superintendent of the Vandalia District. Reverend Resso Robertson was the pastor at this time.

In February of 1937, the original building burned. It was replaced on the same site and with a structure as near like the original as possible. The most interesting part of the building plans were made in St. Louis where the building committee had gone in search of used lumber. The lumber they found was from an old brewery and beer bats were used as material for sheathing for the church building.

Some hardwood used as flooring had been used in a bowling alley. The total cost of the building was \$5,000.00. Mr. Sam Harris, a local carpenter, directed the volunteer labor and the church was built. It was dedicated on 29 August 1937. Reverend R. Robertson and other former pastors were present.

In 1977 the members of the Sunfield United Methodist Church met and decided it was time for them to maintain and support a full time charge. Plans were made and on 2 April 1978 ground was broken for a parsonage on the site of the Old Sunfield Schoolhouse. The building was completed and dedicated in 1978. Reverend Stephen Phillips was the first pastor to live in the parsonage. It has provided a home for the pastor and their families since that time.



Sunfield United Methodist Church apple butter time. (l. to r.) Tim Pearce, Ronnie Lay, Heinie Keiner, Cindy Rainwater, Elsie Bishop, and Ruby Bronke.

In 1994 with the leadership of Reverend Everett Weiss the congregation decided to build an addition to the church, including a fellowship hall and educational wing.

One of the most popular methods of raising funds to donate to programs, is the making of apple butter. The Sunfield Church has been using this method of fundraising since 1978 as a means of providing much needed money to donate to various programs in the church. The group usually "cooks-off" approximately 600 quarts of apple butter annually which is available for public purchase.

The church is one of three Methodist churches in Perry County and serves its community well.

Pastors who have served are listed by last name, McCamon, Robertson, Modlin, Kinnison, Atchison, Wheatly, Hall, Harms, Hight, Sheridan, J.W.A. Kinnison, McPherson, Carroll, Richardson, Shoaff, Schaeffer, Switzer, Gulley, Burkey, Hill, Fisher, Felts, Myers, Pierce, Clark, Phillips, Newbury, Rushing, Weiss, and the present pastor, Reverend Tim Pearce.



Sunfield United Methodist Church

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CONANT



Trinity Lutheran Church, Conant, built in 1897.

On page 404 of the Perry County History Book, Volume I, is a current picture of Trinity Church and a thumbnail sketch of its history, taking us to the year 1988. Here is a picture of the church and parsonage as it was when newly built in the late 1800s. The original church parsonage seen here was sold and moved off the church property about 500 feet to the east 40 years ago and was used as a private residence by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Headrick. It was destroyed by a tornado in May 1983 as was almost every dwelling in Conant.

In 1998, we can report that the strip mining operation around Conant is finished and 3 large stripping machines are "parked" beside the railroad tracks just west of the church, towering over the landscape and dwarfing the size of the white country church. One wonders what the 13 Charter members would think it they could see all this!! The 10 year strip-mining ordeal left the church interior with cracked plaster, dirt and grime pollution from the coal haul road located just 1/8 mile south of the church. Reclamation of the surrounding land is completed and new roads were placed through the mining field for traffic to once again go from Conant to Denmark and Cutler, Illinois and a semblance of tranquility prevails again. Now an underground coal mine is located just 1/2 mile east of the church and the coal is carried by belt line conveyors to the tipple at the Captain Mine near

Denmark for processing. Most of the mines in the area are now closed.

The congregation's future looked bleak when it observed its 90th Anniversary quietly in 1987, but today we are proud to say that Trinity still exists and is celebrating its Centennial in 1997 and 1998. The membership is diminishing slowly as older members pass away, but in 1994 a decision was made to try to maintain the historic building and its heritage. Through the generous gifts of 2 deceased members (Arthur Beck and Gertrude Schrader) it was possible to finance a much needed restoration which included a concrete wheelchair ramp to the entrance, a new roof, extensive interior restoration, plus rewiring for electricity, as the original from the late 1940s was inadequate. It was decided to copy the interior design of the original decorators of 1897 as closely as possible. It cost 40 times as much for restoration as the original cost of the building! Fourth and fifth generations of the Charter members still make up the small congregation. It was a joyous Christmas present indeed, when after about 8 weeks of vacating the church in early November of 1996, the Interior Decorator, Ted Mueller of Chester, allowed us to have Christmas Eve services in the building again. We were honored to be featured on the front cover of the 1997 Historical Calendar published by the Pinckneyville D.A.R. and Perry County Historical Society.

## DU QUOIN CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Du Quoin Church of Christ, located on the corner of East Franklin Street and South Madison Street was established on 1 December 1968. The original members were: Wayne and Joyce Dinkins, and children, Deborah, Stephen, and Anna; Ralph and Anita Krazer and sons, Steven and David; Richard and Janice Valier and Children, Barry and Mina; Cevene Slater; Grace Seaman and son Richard; Laneta Green and sons, Carl and Richard.

Wayne U. Dinkins, minister from the beginning, and his family moved from Hardin, Kentucky where they worshipped and worked with the Union Hill Church of Christ. The Union Hill congregation helped purchase the local building. Through the years, several families have worshipped here. In 1979 Orville and Bessie Pyle retired to Du Quoin and until Orville's death, were very active in the church. The local church has sponsored a radio program on WDQN for many years and at the present time present "The International Gospel Hour" every Sunday morning.

The Church of Christ believes in using the Bible as it's only creed book. The services are based on the New Testament examples of worship, Bible study, prayer, giving money to support the Lord's work, observing the Lord's Supper every Sunday, and singing without the aid of instrumental music. Becoming a Christian and becoming a member of the Lord's church is simultaneous. Having heard the gospel, they believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of god, repent of their sins, confess their faith in Jesus as the Son of God, and are baptized into Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins.



Du Quoin Church of Christ

Currently (1998) attending services include: Wayne and Joyce Dinkins, Stephen Dinkins, Richard and Janice Valier, Barry and Vanessa with Bailey and Rhett Valier, Don and Kathy with Greg and Blake DeMario, Ben and Loretta with Susan, Laura and Brooke Hill, Kenneth and Nina Stockton, Jean Brewer, Lucille Nevill, Doris Whitecotton, Cevene Slater, and mother, Una Niell, and members but unable to attend, Bessie Pyle and Millie Norris. *Written and submitted by Wayne U. Dinkins*

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LOST PRAIRIE

In the Perry County History Book, Volume I, a brief history of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, founded in 1867, is printed on page 380. Just months after their Centennial Celebration, the church was destroyed by a tornado on 21 December 1967. The members scattered to surrounding congregations, mainly to Trinity Lutheran Church of Conant, Illinois, the off-shoot congregation of Immanuel, which was built

in 1897, the same year as Immanuel was erecting their second larger church pictured below. Note the dirt road in the foreground which is now Route 154 and was paved with concrete in the late 1920's.

Following the tornado of 1967, Immanuel members erected a handsome granite marker at the original church steps, and it is worth one's time to stop in and admire it. The parsonage which was not severely damaged by the disaster, was sold and is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Gielow for the past 30 years. Immanuel's Cemetery is still being used for burials and beautiful trees have been planted on the church property, giving it a park like appearance.

Artifacts of the original 1867 Immanuel church are still in existence as Immanuel presented the new Trinity Congregation with their original double reed church organ given them by Elizabeth Yung Beck in 1867, the altar crucifix and 2 matching single candleholders, and some balcony pews made of poplar. All of the above are still being used at Trinity and appreciated to this day.



Immanuel Lutheran Church and Parsonage - Lost Prairie

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Sacred Heart School

Sacred Heart School has seen countless generations of young Catholics grow academically and spiritually within its walls. Recent financial concerns have threatened the existence of the school, but that adversity has brought out the strength of character and the belief in the value of the school in the hearts and minds of the parishioners. Father Charles Klocke, the priest who founded the school, would be proud of the hard work and effort Du Quoin Catholics have displayed in keeping the school open.

Fr. Klocke came to Sacred Heart in September of 1868. One of the first acts was to establish a parochial school for eight students in the rectory, formerly the home of Henry Horn. This proved to be too small for the growing student body and was moved to a small home that was owned by the Church. John Masquelet was the teacher in the facility, which was used for five years.

In 1872, a new two story structure was built on West Main Street next to the Church. It measured 40 x 24 feet and opened with 74 students in attendance. Storm damage took its toll on the building and it was demolished twenty years later so that the present building could be built.

Around 1890, Mother Caroline for the School Sisters of Notre Dame visited the Parish. Fr. Klocke had for some years tried to get the Sisters involved in teaching at the school. His zealous entreaties prevailed and a century-long association between the Sisters and the Sacred Heart School began.

The first Sisters were Sr. M. Samuela as Superior and upper class teacher, Sr. M. Artemia as primary grades teacher, Sr. M. Madeline as music teacher, and Sr. M. Alruna, who "interested herself in house and garden." As no separate lodging was available, Fr. Klocke lived in a nearby hut while the Sisters occupied the rectory.

The first class the Sisters encountered was composed of 80 children. According to SSND history, two-thirds were German, one-third were Irish, and a few were Polish.

On 23 May 1892, the job of tearing down the school began, with school boys helping to clean the old bricks in the demolition process. The masons were soon busy laying the foundation and, with Fr. Klocke working as a day-laborer, the school was soon ready for use.

On 12 October 1892, Fr. Klocke and the St. Anthony's mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame led 120 students into the school building that has stood for the 106 years. A few days later, the Sisters moved into the convent and Fr. Klocke reclaimed

the parochial residence. The new school was blessed on the Feast of St. Nicholas, 6 December 1892, by the Right Reverend Bishop J. Janssen.

The new school became a Du Quoin institution, and enrollment grew. Even as the Parish and the community mourned the 9 February 1911 passing of the indomitable Fr. Klocke, the foundations of today's parish family became apparent in the historical accounts of the period.

The Enchanted Violin, was performed by the graduating class of 1927. Henry Miller appeared in the starring role of "Skinflint," Frank Roznowski was "Julius Caesar Wellington" and Anton Berg played "The Judge." Other featured actors included Elmer Woll, Frank Schleper, and Albert Kern.

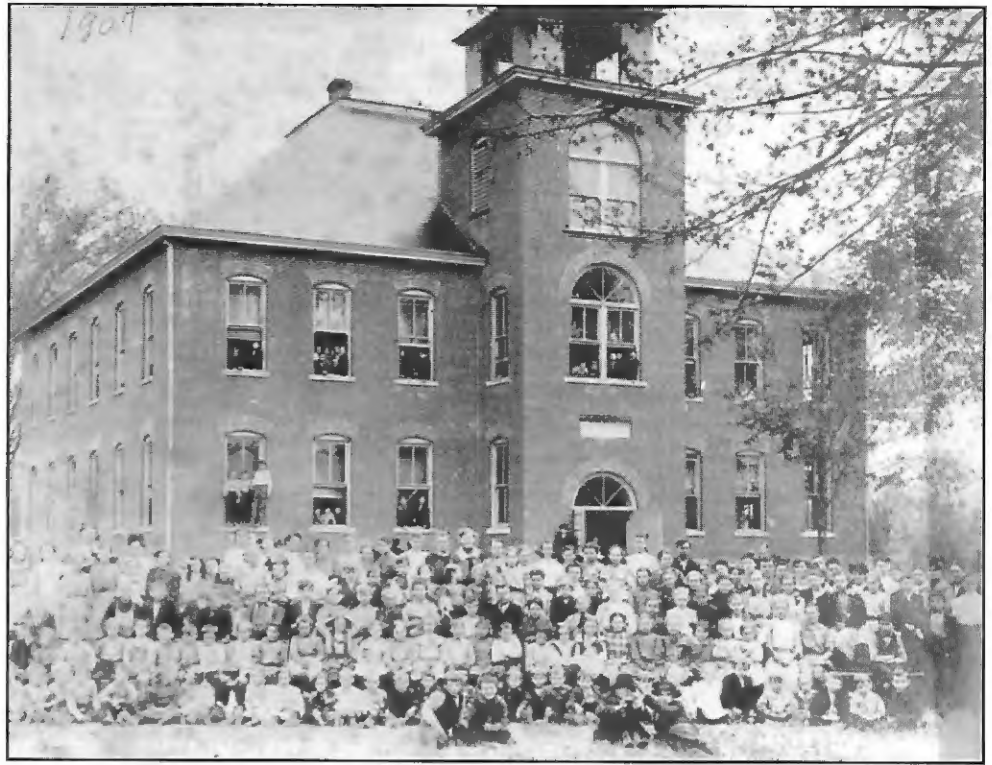
The School Sisters of Notre Dame continue their service to the students of Sacred Heart School. From 1891 to 1990, 144 Sisters have graced the halls of the school. As the faculty was when the Sisters first arrived, our excellent teachers today are lay teachers. But their roles were shaped by the dedication and devotion to the ideal of Catholic education of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish are eternally grateful for the service this order has provided.

A school is just another building without the people who have walked its corridors over the past century. The students, teachers, staff and parents are the ones who have breathed life into the brick and mortar walls. As the parishioners gain in faith and strength as they work together to ensure the future of the school through the School Foundation fund-raising efforts, the sense that we truly work as and believe in "One holy Catholic and Apostolic Church" was never deeper.

## TAMAROA GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

Tamaroa is one of the oldest communities in Southern Illinois, whose first settlers came to this area in 1815. These early settlers were interested in the education of their children and provided opportunities for them to learn fundamentals like reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling.

The first school house in the Tamaroa area was the Brand school house built about 1821. Its first teacher was Jacob Walker. The first public school building was erected in 1861. It was a two story frame building. It was probably the building, according to Board Minutes, sold to Dr. Ward for \$640.00 with the provision that it be moved before building began on the new brick school in 1905. The first village teacher was Miss Bonner. The school was graded in 1859-60. Mr. Green was the first Superintendent of the school in 1859.



Tamaroa Grade School 1907.



Tamaroa Grade School Today

The present school building was built in 1905-06. The 1905 Board of Education awarded the contract for \$2,000.00 to C. M. Lee. Board president was J. T. Marlow and secretary was P. W. Gunster. The other members were: J. M. Harris, George Blanchard, W. W. Hodge, Joel Morrow, and Jacob Kimmel. The building was renovated in 1975-76 and in 1978 the windows and roof were replaced and the attic was insulated. In 1997 a new furnace was installed and the bathrooms were made handicap accessible. Although the building is now over ninety years old, it compares well with newer buildings in comfort and cleanliness.

The present Board of Education consists of: President, Gary Reidelberger, vice-president, Mary Beth Cassity, Ray George, Mary Nippe, Dennis Heape, Kevin Hicks, Cheryl Trigg and secretary-treasurer, Dolores Stein.

The district staff members are: Superintendent, Bob O'Dell, Cynthia Opp, Ryan Heape, Jack Kiselewski, Cathy Youngman, Marjorie Pedtke, Jennifer Harsy, Rosalie Whittington, Lee Woodcock, Amy Wylie, Julia Witges, Lois Baugh, Mary Portell and Peter Omiotek, teachers. Other members are cook, Mary B. Farthing, lunchroom supervisors, Sandy Jablonski and Pat Ellison, playground supervisor, Rita Kurtz, custodian, Susan Heape, clerks, Rhonda Fleming and Amanda Heape and Dolores Stein, school secretary.



Present School Board Members

## COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #204

Before 1950 the citizens of this area were sending their children to one room schools where one teacher was the master of all. However, during the 1940's the rural population began to decline. With this decline, the number of students also decreased. It was common to find rural schools with only a few students enrolled. This was not economically or educationally sound. The state's approach to solve the problem was consolidation, but felt it should come from the local level. The state soon realized its unrealistic stance and forced the small schools to consolidate by mandating minimal size of enrollments.

On 9 April 1949, six small schools located immediately east of Pinckneyville voted to consolidate into one new school district, Community Consolidated District #204. Those six schools were: Upper Arm, White Walnut, Upper Holts, Lower Arm, Shakerag and Lower Holts. Of the six districts, only Upper Holts voted against the plan. Ironically, the new building was built in what used to be the Upper Holts district. In the same election the people gave the new school authority to levy taxes at a rate of .90 percent for the education fund and .25 percent for the building and site purchasing fund.

The election came as a result of many efforts, but one man stood out as a community leader. Following the passage of the Average Daily Attendance requirements by the state, Charles W. Neville, county Superintendent, started making plans to visit the six rural schools. He took petitions concerning the consolidation on his speech making tours. He would explain at the meetings the increase in money necessary at each school to keep the school in operation. After the meetings, many people would sign the petitions. When enough signatures were finally obtained, the election date was set. In May, 1949, the new school board was elected. These men began the long, hard task of establishing the reputation and tradition of Community Consolidated District #204 as a sound educational institution. During the first year, the teachers

taught in the one room schools because the new building had not been erected. In the fall of 1949, bonds were issued and the present site near the center of the district on Illinois Highway 154 was chosen. In January 1950, an architect was hired, and by June construction had begun. On 19 December 1950, the board accepted the building from the contractor as being completed. Soon after, the teachers and pupils of Community Consolidated District #204 moved in. In March, 1951, District #28 known as Cross School petitioned into District #204. In June 1951, District #27, called Round Prairie, also annexed into the district. In February, 1964, information was released to the board stating that the Du Quoin School District #300 had bid for annexation of a considerable portion of District #204's territory. After several rounds of what proved to be a fruitless fight, Philip A. Provart, County Superintendent, awarded the land to District #300 on 1 July 1970. In 1969, Pinckneyville District #50 annexed the land where their present Junior High building was built. All of these moves have resulted in the current boundaries for the school district. As the enrollment increased, much work has been done on the original building. In June, 1951, a garage connected to the building was constructed. In January 1964, construction was begun on two new classrooms, two restrooms, and one furnace room. In January 1967, one of these rooms became a kindergarten classroom. From this date on "204" has been a kindergarten through eighth grade school. In the fall of 1972, two temporary classrooms were finished to meet the requirements created by growing enrollment.

On 1 July 1993 Community Consolidated School District #211 was annexed. With the addition of District #211 the number of square miles served by District #204 more than doubled from 42 square miles to 84.83 square miles. District #211 was a welcome addition to District #204 helping provide stable enrollment and an opportunity to continue to provide a quality education for all students served.

In 1996 District #204 undertook a two phase remodeling project that added four classrooms, expanded the kitchen, and made more of the restrooms handicapped accessible. In 1997 the remodeling project was complete and a new 48 foot by 96 foot bus barn was constructed on the east end of the property.

Community Consolidated District #204 is now a school the people of the district want to maintain. It serves kindergarten through eighth grade. Services are also provided for speech therapy and learning disabilities. A music teacher is employed on a one-half day basis, and a remedial reading teacher is employed under Title I funds. The community of the district is highly interested in the future of the school. These people are constantly striving to have the school continue to serve as it has since its beginning.

We wish to express our appreciation to Gene Broombaugh for use of information from his research report "History of Community Consolidated School District #204 in Perry County, Illinois."



Community Consolidated 204 school.



Willisville Grade School

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PINCKNEYVILLE



On 27 December 1868, a new building, referred to as the 'Old Brick' was dedicated. The cost of the brick was \$3,080.60

Nine Mile Baptist Association. The Church was incorporated in March, 1868 when it was officially named "First Baptist Church of Pinckneyville." The congregation continued to meet in the 'Old Temperance Hall' until late in 1868. On 27 December 1868, the Church dedicated its first building, later called the 'Old Brick.' It was free of debt by 14 February 1874. The first Church building stood where the present Church stands, the corner of Mill and St. Louis Street. The present building, constructed in 1960, is the 3rd church building erected on that corner by the Southern Baptist congregation.

First Baptist of Pinckneyville has been served by the following as Pastor: Pendleton W. Jones 1865-1867; John H. Mise 1867-1870; L.C. Carr 1871-1871; William H. Carner 1872-1873; David Matlock 1874-1874; David Huggins 1875-1875; E. C. H. Willoughby 1876-1877; J. Carroll Harriss 1877-1878; W. A. Jarrell 1879-1880; James W. Hunsaker 1883-1885; E. C. H. Willoughby 1886-1887; Jacob Cole 1887-1888; W. G. Danbury 1888-1890; C. W. Alexander 1891-1893; A. H. Anthony 1893-1894; J. D. Hooker 1895-1897; J. T. Brown 1897-1898; L. L. Stierwalt 1898-1901; J. B. Webb 1901-1905; J. L. Payne 1906-1909; P. C. Watson 1910-1911; J. A. McCord 1911-1915; I. E. Lee 1915-1919; R. A. Morris 1920-1924; E. H. Zippodt 1924-1929; I. E. Miller 1929-1935; W. T. Waring 1935-1940; Jack DeVore 1940-1942; T. W. Nelson 1942-1944; Ewell Payne 1944-1947; Lee Swope 1947-1950; Archie Brown 1950-1954; Carvin Bryant 1954-1958; Maurice Swinford 1958-1968; Charles W. Boling 1968-1986; Cecil Clegg 1987-1989; William C. Rook 1991-1997.

Reverend James Bush accepted a call to pastor First Baptist of Pinckneyville on 20 May 1998 and will begin his service on 1 July 1998.

Sunday 29 July 1990 the First Baptist Church celebrated its 125th Anniversary. Former Pastors present were: Jack DeVore, Archie Brown, Carvin Bryant, and Charles W. Boling. The late Dr. Robert J. Hastings was the main speaker of the day.

First Baptist mourned the loss of long time Executive

First Baptist Church of Pinckneyville was organized on Sunday 30 July 1865. Nine persons having been previously baptized upon a profession of faith in Christ were present for the purpose of organizing the church. They included: Andrew B. Hogard, his wife Ellen J. Hogard, Richard M. Davis and his wife Catherine O. Davis, Charles Song, Lucy A. Malone, James F. Mason, Louisa Denny and Parthenia Church. They met at the 'Old Temperance Hall' on south Main Street.

In the October, 1865 business meeting it was announced that the church had been received into the

Assistant, Mrs. Mildred Thomas, who passed away in Pinckneyville on 24 November 1993. Mildred gave forty-three years of dedicated service to the Lord and First Baptist of Pinckneyville.

The Church accepted the retirement of staff member Richard Vaughn, after 25 years of service as Youth and Music Minister and also as Senior Adult and Music Minister. Our community has been truly blessed by the Worship Services performed by First Baptist Choir under the direction of Richard Vaughn. On Sunday 2 November 1997, before his retirement, effective 1 May 1998, Richard led the Church in the Dedication of a new Rogers 450 Organ which has been an added joy to our Worship Services.

As our community faces new challenges, First Baptist looks at the challenges as opportunities....Opportunities to Serve Our Lord and Our Fellow Man. *Submitted by Historical Committee: Martha Emling, Wilma Guy and Eunice Ritter*



In 1905, historic 'Old Brick' was razed to make room for this new church. It was in this building, on January 31, 1907, that the Illinois Baptist State Association was organized.



First Baptist completely remodeled after a fire on January 1, 1940. Rededicated to the Lord's Service until razed to make way for the present building.